

6.0

OTHER PLANS FOR TRAILS AND URBAN PATHWAYS IN THE SEDONA REGION

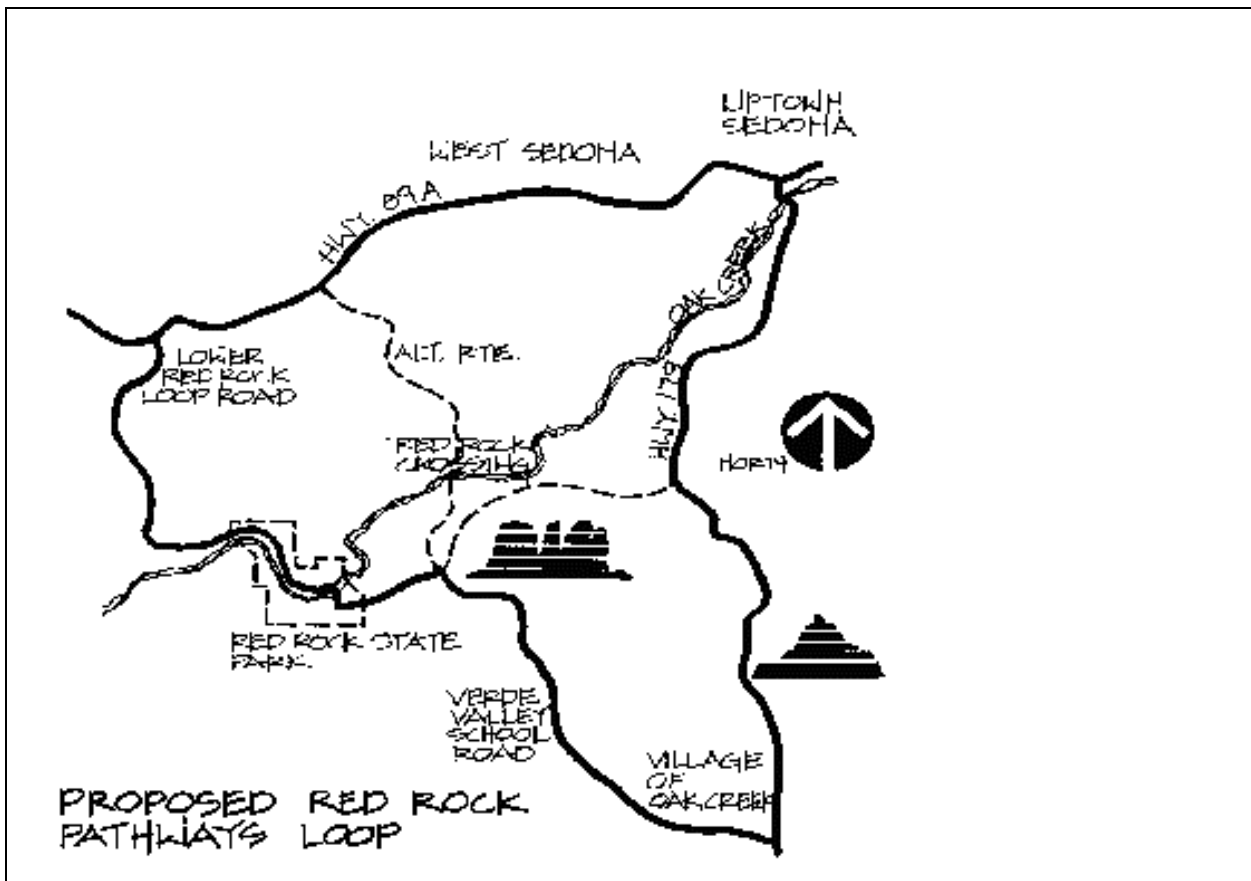
The City has conducted two studies focusing on the Uptown/Creek and West Sedona areas. Neither plan has yet been adopted by the City. It is recommended that, when the plans are completed, they are incorporated into this plan.

6.1 RED ROCK PATHWAYS PLAN

In 1993, the Red Rock Pathways, Yavapai, and Coconino Counties, and the City of Sedona pledged their support for this project by signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

In 1994, these same entities were joined by the U. S. Forest Service and the Governor of the State of Arizona in signing a Letter of Intent, further committing to the goals of the Red Rock Pathways Plan.

The goal of the Red Rock Pathways is to provide non-motorized traffic and recreation corridors within the City of Sedona and surrounding areas in Yavapai and Coconino Counties. These corridors would provide alternate modes of transportation, hiking, jogging, and bicycling for residents and visitors. The heart of the Red Rock Pathways vision is a central thirty-mile loop connecting the City of Sedona via Highway 89A to the Red Rock Loop Road and Red Rock State Park, and then on via Verde Valley School Road to the Village of Oak Creek. From the Village of Oak Creek, the loop will parallel Highway 179 back to Sedona and Highway 89A at the "Y".



In 1994, the Red Rock Pathways organization obtained \$700,000 in Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) funds to begin construction of two segments of the pathway. One of the segments connects the City of Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek via a corridor running parallel with Highway 179. Construction was expected to be completed in 1995.

This plan strongly recommends that the City of Sedona work in partnership with the Red Rock Pathways organization to develop specific route plans. The City and Red Rock Pathways should also work together to secure funding for construction and maintenance of the portions of the Red Rock Pathways within the City.

6.2 VERDE VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY BICYCLE ELEMENT

The Sedona Trails and Urban Pathways Plan incorporates the recommendations of the Verde Valley Regional Transportation Study Bicycle Element. In 1993, the Verde Valley Transportation Organization commissioned BRW, Inc. to prepare a twenty-year regional bicycle plan encompassing the areas of Jerome, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Village of Oak Creek, and Sedona.

The bicycle element emphasizes the enhancement of cycling as a travel mode for both utilitarian and recreational purposes. The regional bikeway network is designed to help fulfill the mandate of the ISTEA, which calls for a balanced multi-modal transportation system. The element recommends the following goals:

- Enhance the convenience and appeal of cycling as a regional transportation mode
- Improve safety for bicyclists in the Verde Valley
- Increase recreational opportunities for cyclists
- Promote public awareness and recognition of cycling opportunities

6.3 COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST TRAILS SYSTEM PLANNING

The City of Sedona is surrounded by the Coconino National Forest (CNF). The recreational use of bicycles in the CNF is a relatively recent activity, since mountain bicycles have only been available since the early 1980's, while hiking and equestrian activities have been occurring in the CNF for decades.

The popularity of all trails activities will continue to increase. In particular, mountain biking continues to show dramatic increases with advances in technology, allowing greater numbers of cyclists to access trails and backroad environments.

The City and USFS should continue to coordinate efforts to ensure that trails and urban pathways planning and construction are done using the guidelines set forth in this plan. Furthermore, it is recommended that both agencies designate staff liaisons and create an advisory body which would include pertinent City staff and commission members, USFS staff, Yavapai and Coconino Counties, ADOT, and representatives of local hiking, biking, and equestrian organizations.